

Green Building Overview

Green Building is a term that helps to define environmentally, economically, and socially appropriate building techniques that create healthy built environments while simultaneously protecting, restoring and regenerating the natural environment.

A green approach to building is one that is very practical. It is a process of designing, constructing, operating and maintaining a structure to reduce its impact on present and future environmental resources, while remaining cognizant of the local cultural, financial and architectural context.

Green Building Objectives

Optimize Energy Efficiency

A fundamental principle to green building is to reduce the energy necessary for a building to function efficiently, without compromising homeowner comfort. In addition to lowering operating costs for a homeowner, this strategy, coupled with renewable energy sources, has the potential to create energy independence, reduce utility bills and air pollution, and minimize the effects of global warming. Proper solar orientation, improved insulation, tighter construction, high performance windows and energy efficient heating and cooling equipment, provides a solid framework to achieving such goals.

Natural Resource Conservation

The broad spectrum of natural, recycled, reclaimed and/or engineered building materials, known as green products, can dramatically reduce the vast quantities of non-renewable material consumption and waste attributed to conventional, new home construction practices. Furthermore, planning, designing & building a home that is appropriate to a specific site enables the most efficient and complementary use of limited natural resources and helps to preserve plants, animals, endangered species and natural habitats.

Constructing Healthy, Durable, Long Lasting Homes

Increasing the life span of a building that is structurally sound, uses non-toxic materials, and provides a healthy indoor air environment for builders and homeowners, increases its value while reducing future costs and deconstruction waste.

Why Build Green in NJ?

New Jersey is home to a unique and wonderful array of diverse people, landscapes, natural, cultural and financial resources. The avenues for environmental and cultural exploration abound.

Unfortunately, wasteful consumption attributed to conventional building practices greatly degrade our most treasured natural and social resources. As a policymaker, design professional, contractor, builder, citizen and homeowner, there exists a powerful opportunity within green building parameters to make choices that directly affect one's economic & personal health, while contributing positively to the restoration of community and environmental viability. Building Green benefits include:

Lower Water and Energy Bills
Healthier Living Environments
Efficient Use of Resources
Improved Safety and Security

Reduced Maintenance Costs
More Durable Projects
Reduced Pollution
Strengthened Economies